

# *Canada to the Rescue*

BY

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AS THE day of opportunity dies in the old world it dawns in this Dominion of Canada. Canada, from now on, is going to cut a large and lucrative figure in the matter of feeding the world.

The converging lines of production and consumption which draw near to each other in the United States, actually spread as they reach into the future, in Canada. In Western Canada a million people produce more than one hundred million bushels of wheat.

When the population of the west reaches two millions they will probably produce three hundred million bushels and so on.

The question of living has reached an acute stage in Europe, through overpopulation, and already signs are present of unsatisfactory conditions in the United States. The position occupied by Canada in this respect is in such striking contrast as to excite the interest of the world. Although but on the threshold of her development there are flocking to her agricultural districts, her mining sections and her forests, thousands of intelligent, industrious and thrifty Americans, British and Europeans, attracted by the golden opportunities unfolded to their view.

In a recent address before the Railway Business Men's Association of United States, Mr. W. C. Brown, President of the New York Central Lines, dwelt upon the fact that that country has at last reached the period when care must be exercised lest the permanency of their institutions be shaken in the solving of the question of supply and demand.

In his address, Mr. Brown makes the following statement :—

“ If the converging lines of production and consumption “ in the United States continue to approach each other as

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" they have during the past ten years, before the middle of  
" the next decade (1915) the last vessel loaded with the  
" agricultural product of this country will have left our shore,  
" the great exporting grain elevators in our seaboard cities  
" will stand empty, and this great nation, like those of the old  
" world, will be looking for a place to buy the necessities of life.

" At the close of the Civil War (less than fifty years  
" ago) the States of Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska would  
" have furnished a quarter section of Government land to  
" every veteran mustered out of the military service of the  
" nation. Great states and territories with their wealth of  
" primeval forest and virgin soil, lay waiting to be peopled.

" To-day all this is changed, The day of ' free land for  
" free men ' in the United States is past. No longer can the  
" homestead be had for the asking here. The frontier,  
" like the Indian, has become a tradition, an interesting item  
" in the Nation's history.

" Almost the last county of the last state of territory  
" where cultivation is possible has been settled. The tide of  
" emigration is setting up into western Canada. Occasion-  
" ally an Indian reservation is opened in the United States  
" for settlement, and tens of thousands of eager settlers  
" gather on the borders waiting the word that sends them like  
" a flood sweeping over the land, realizing that our once  
" apparently inexhaustible public domain is gone for ever."

Conditions in the United States as outlined above by so  
eminent an authority as President Brown bring vividly to  
the mind Canada's immense areas teeming with riches and  
awaiting development. The day of " free land for free men "  
has **not** passed, but, it must be admitted, is fast approaching.  
Even in Canada its end will be reached within the next fifty  
years.

The Homestead **can** yet be had for the asking—the  
splendid agricultural territory in Canada, which is being  
opened up by the projection of the Grand Trunk Pacific  
Railway, will provide homes for hundreds upon hundreds of

thousands. For years the United States was looked upon as the world's granary, but with its diminishing exports and ever increasing population it finds itself in respect to supply and demand approaching a position similar to that of the countries of Continental Europe. Now, all eyes are turned towards Canada, whose opportunity to become the chief producer of the world's foodstuffs has arrived.

The figures quoted by President Brown are startling in their conclusions as the following show :

From 1898 to 1907 although the acreage in wheat, corn, oats and barley had increased twenty-two per cent., Exports decreased sixty-nine per cent.

This tremendous falling off, Mr. Brown shows, was not due to the fact that the grain had been fed to stock and exported in the shape of beef and pork, as the falling off in the exports of these commodities for the period named is fully as startling as in grain.

The preliminary report of the Bureau of Statistics for the year ended June 30, 1909, shows a falling off, as compared with the previous year, in the exports of beef and tallow of thirty-five per cent.; while the decline in the exports of pork and its products exceeds fifteen per cent. The same report shows that exports of grain for the same period declined twenty-nine per cent.

Canada on the other hand has in the past few years demonstrated her ability to produce foodstuffs in sufficient quantities to largely make up the deficiencies of the other wheat growing countries of the world.

The Canadian Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta produced :

	In 1900	In 1909	Increase over 1900
Wheat .....	23,456,859	147,482,000	529%
Oats .....	16,653,681	185,439,000	1013%
Barley .....	3,141,121	31,358,000	898%
Total.....	43,251,661	364,279,000	

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The above includes the output of districts which as yet are sparsely settled, also the production from land newly ploughed and practically without cultivation.

It is simply a fraction of what can and will be produced under higher cultivation of the land already settled and from the millions of acres yet untouched.

Jas. W. Rush, of England, one of the best informed experts in Great Britain, who has made a careful study of existing conditions in so far as wheat supply is concerned, in a recent article makes the following interesting comparison between the output and consumption of wheat for a period of four years :

	Bushels
" World's crops of 1905 and 1906.....	6,745,000,000
" World's consumption.....	6,525,000,000
" Surplus .....	220,000,000
" World's crops in 1907 and 1908.....	6,275,000,000
" World's normal consumption.....	6,675,000,000
" Deficiency .....	400,000,000

The deficiency of the latter two years exceeds apparently by 180 millions of bushels the surplus left by the two previous crops.

In other words, the world's reserve stocks at the harvests of 1905 and 1906 have to be drawn to this extent in order to supply current demands.

That Canada will, to a large extent at least, be able to meet " current demands " is not doubted by those acquainted with her wonderful resources.

Mr. Tiffany in the *Review of Reviews*, writes :—

" Considering the available new lands, we find a vast " empire in western Canada, extending west of Winnipeg, " for 1,000 miles and northward for 300 miles, a great part of " which is available for wheat culture, and which produces " some of the finest wheat in the world."

After a reference to the rapidity with which the recognized wheat areas of Manitoba and Southern and Central Saskatchewan and Alberta are being populated, he refers to the possibilities of the north country in enthusiastic terms :

"Where lies another vast empire with possibilities for wheat acreage, the Peace River Valley seven hundred miles north of Montana. This territory, tempered by the Chinook winds and its proximity to the mountains, has grown a superior quality of wheat for the last sixteen years."

The lands of Canada are being taken up by an exceptionally intelligent and industrious people thoroughly awake to the advantages offered, and who, by applying twentieth century methods, are making a business of farming. With the most scientifically constructed machinery and implements, they are engaging themselves in the production of the greatest possible quantity precisely as a manufacturer strives to turn out with his machinery the greatest possible number of the article he makes.

Under ordinary cultivation, the average production of land at present operated will swell the output to a further startling degree; and the settlement of the immense tracts of splendid land yet open to homesteading and purchase will undoubtedly enable Canada to supply the demands for food-stuffs of her own people, of her neighbors and of Great Britain as well.

In addition to the splendid cereal producing lands of western Canada, there is the great so-called Clay Belt, consisting of some 16 million acres in north-eastern Ontario and stretching into the Province of Quebec. The main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is now being built through the heart of this section. The climate and latitude is approximately the same as southern Manitoba and from agricultural tests so far made, it is predicted that the Clay Belt will be able to produce wheat of as high grade and as much to the acre as Manitoba. More will be published regarding this new section when investigations now being conducted are completed.

Another branch of agriculture which has been pursued by Canada with the greatest energy and industry is that of dairy-farming, more particularly in the East and Middle West. Everything is being done that intelligent effort can do to reach the highest degree of efficiency of operation and quality of product. The Dominion and Provincial Governments are lending a hearty co-operation, and the dairymen, by the importation of pedigreed stock and the scientific testing of milch cows, are doing a work of national importance and at the same time productive of great financial benefit to themselves.

In 1896, Canada sold England \$11,600,000 worth of cheese at an average price of \$6.75 per box. In 1909, she shipped \$17,200,000 worth of this commodity at \$9.20 per box. In 1900, she sold 55 per cent. of all the cheese used in England, and in 1909, this rose to nearly 70 per cent.; although there was used 12,000 tons less, Canada actually sold 6,000 tons more.

The live stock industry in like manner is receiving every attention and is keeping pace with the general development of the country. The live stock in Canada from data collected from correspondents on June 30, 1908, was as follows :—

	Number	Value
Horses.....	2,118,165	\$264,000,000
Milch cows.....	2,917,746	99,000,000
Other cattle.....	4,629,836	122,000,000
Sheep.....	2,831,404	15,000,000
Swine.....	3,369,858	31,000,000

These figures are truly marvellous when the fact is taken into consideration that they simply represent the beginning of what will in the near future represent wealth without a parallel in agricultural communities.

The foregoing brings us to the consideration of the work accomplished by the Dominion and Provincial Governments in establishing experimental farms throughout the country, where the most satisfactory results have been obtained by a

judicious selection of those seeds and plants best adapted to the soil of the various Provinces.

Besides the numerous agricultural colleges and illustration farms conducted by the Provincial Governments, the Dominion Government has established at Ottawa a Central Experimental Farm with eight others in various sections of the Dominion, in affiliation, and three subsidiary stations where everything possible is done to assist all those desirous of obtaining advanced information regarding any or all branches of agriculture. Those engaged in the business of farming have been so alive to the value and importance of the scientific work carried on at these special farms, that fully a half million reports and bulletins were issued in answer to queries received the past year. The authorities also organize farmers' picnics, during the summer months, to the Experimental Farms, of which thousands avail themselves, having the privilege of personally judging how efficacious is the work accomplished by the institutions.

In addition the Government representatives attend meetings held by ambitious farmers during the winter season, at which every opportunity is afforded those interested to post themselves thoroughly in the scientific aspect of all branches of this chosen profession.

The laboratories connected with the farms specialize in the analysis of seeds, determining as only science can what is best adapted for each section of the country, and selected seed is furnished on application. The fact that a yearly average of eighty tons have been distributed from the Dominion Government's Central Farm alone speaks volumes for the high intelligence that is being applied to the problems of scientific farming.

Besides conducting experiments with cereals, earnest attention is being paid to the subject of plants, trees and shrubbery, also fruit, poultry and live stock raising.

The great advance being made by Canada in the production of cereals and other articles of food, will be supplemented

by fruits of all kinds, native to a temperate climate. Every variety is grown in the wonderfully fertile Niagara Peninsula and in British Columbia. The fame of Ontario and Quebec apples is fast spreading and altogether Canada has the soils and climate peculiarly adapted for growing in the greatest abundance, the most delicious fruit in the world.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is opening up millions of acres of splendid new territory all along the line. Here are to be had all the comforts and some of the luxuries of civilization—ample fuel and first-class transportation, telegraph and telephone facilities.

Towns are springing up with bewildering rapidity, but Western Canada is so vast there are yet to be had thousands of free homesteads along the new line, and additional land can be purchased at small cost.

In other countries the railroad has followed in the wake of advancing civilization, but so confident is the management of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway of the rapid development of the sections of the country which they have selected to traverse that they are leading the way.

The day is far distant when Canada shall have reached the stage where its production will be sufficient only for its consumption, and it is safe to prophesy on this the threshold of its great destiny that before many years have gone by, the Dominion will be found exporting its surplus foodstuffs not only to Great Britain and Europe but to the United States as well; thus will the alarming condition referred to by President Brown, be remedied, and the assertion made by Mr. James J. Hill, that "there is land and wealth enough in Canada to feed every mouth in Europe," be fulfilled.

